

BUFORA NEWSFILE

Issue 47 November 1996

GLOUCESTER NEWS

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A bumper week for saucer-spotter

FLYING saucer spotters are on a high after a record six separate sightings of UFOs were recorded in Gloucestershire last week.

Interest has rocketed because of the alien blockbuster film Independence Day and cult TV series The X-Files.

And UFO watchers expect even more strange encounters with the first International Sky Watch this week.

One of the most peculiar incidents was spotted about 700 feet up, between Newent and Upleadon, when a small orange oval was seen to move in a left to right sweeping motion.

Experts believe this week's activity is not part of the meteor showers which have been spotted outside Gloucestershire.

Four eerie white lights were seen over Northway, Tewkesbury. There was a strange object over Bourton-on-the-Water and three UFO sightings in Cheltenham. Members of Cheltenham-based group Circu

Forum will be looking skywards tonight and tomorrow, and urged others to get involved.

Robin Cole, the forum's lead investigator, said the organisation was stunned to get six reports in a week. It normally gets that number in a year.

"This year's Sky Watch comes at a time of increasing UFO reports across the globe and the UK," he said.

"Gloucestershire is clearly in on the action. People have come forward with some very interesting reports over the last few months, which we are currently following up."

► In reply to your interesting article 'UFO Witnessed over Tibberton,' may I say that a few weeks ago, with a friend, I also saw a strange light.

It seemed to float high across the sky, very slowly before shooting up towards Jupiter.

I am seriously convinced we have been visited by an Alien life form, we are just too scared to admit it. I also believe there has been a massive cover up by the Government.

And as for looking for life on Mars, we're looking at the wrong planet. Jupiter is where life is.

Finally it's a shame we have to look for intelligent life on other planets, instead of our own. Remember the truth is out there.

JEFF HOLMES,
Ronkswood,
Worcester.

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'Strange' encounter with a UFO

A DORCHESTER family told of the night they turned into space-sleuths to track down an unidentified flying object.

The couple — who did not wish to be named for fear of hoax calls — were driving on the A354 near Milborne St Andrew when one of their children saw strange lights in the sky.

The mother, 32, said: "We didn't pay much attention at first. But they kept talking about it, so I asked my partner to have a look outside."

At first, the 34-year-old health worker couldn't see anything

By SARAH MABER

unusual. When he looked out of the sun-roof, he saw a triangular-shaped craft hovering just 50ft above.

"There was no warning — no engine noise or anything", the Dorchester mum said. "It seemed like it was following us, and I thought that if I stopped the car, it would stop too. I didn't feel any fear. I wanted to get closer to it to see what it was — it was almost a compulsion."

The family followed the object on

to the Piddlehinton road but lost the craft over a hill.

The mum said: "I have got no explanation for this — I wish I did have. I have neither a belief nor a disbelief in UFOs or aliens. But the incident was all very strange."

The family contacted the police, assuming there would be a logical explanation. But inquiries proved fruitless.

Now they are appealing to anyone else who saw the UFO near the Puddletown to Dorchester door carriage way at about 10pm on Tuesday to come forward.

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Still in the dark

RE Breamore UFO sightings: I have been following your story with great interest as I and my two passengers also saw the same three lights in the shape of a cylinder in the sky above Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, on the evening of Sunday September 1, which is a different day to your other sighting.

Our view was brief, but very clear on a fine evening. After numerous visits to air displays around the south of England, this sighting still has me baffled!
MR I. CAMPBELL
The Street, East Knoyle.

UFOs over Potteries claims spark plea for sky watch assistance

FAMILIES are being asked to keep their eyes peeled for unidentified flying object activity as part of a national sky-watch campaign.

Members of the Potteries Paranormal Investigation group are set to stake out Mow Cop this weekend in a bid to spot UFOs from other planets.

And they are urging anyone who sees anything unusual to call them.

The sky watch has been co-ordinated by paranormal investigation groups across the country.

Group members are "extremely hopeful" of making a find following a number of unexplained sightings of a flying orange ball of light in the Potteries this week.

Spokesman Gary Cartlidge said: "Last weekend we had a call from a gentleman with a great deal of civil aviation experience who saw a bright orange ball of light travelling

By Liz Doig

at about 15,000 feet above Sneyd Green, at about 300 miles and hour.

"Just before his call, a lady telephoned to say she had seen an orange ball of light zig-zagging in the sky over her home in Dresden.

"And on Monday and Tuesday we had a few calls from people sighting similar balls of light over Hanford and Hanley.

No noise

"Aircraft do not do the kind of zig-zagging motion described by the lady and in all cases there was no noise coming from the light.

"We want people throughout the Potteries to help us this weekend and call us if they see anything."

Garry can be contacted on 01782 593719 or 0468 403349.

Was a white light a UFO?

SCORES of stargazers who saw a huge white light speeding across the sky on Sunday night rang Manchester Airport asking if they had registered anything unusual on the radar.

Anthony Price, who has seen UFOs before, was in his Bramhall garden, with friends when they all saw a large white light hurtling through the sky, followed by a smaller one.

He said: "It was amazing. It looked like a really big comet but it was definitely out of this atmosphere. It was something huge and a long way out. It was like the North Star but much bigger and brighter."

The light was seen by many people around Stockport and Manchester.

UFO expert David Cayton, a member of sightings body QUEST, said: "I have had a call from someone who thinks they saw the same thing in Glasgow.

"It does sound like a UFO, but Jodrell Bank says it could have been a Russian satellite. It certainly is very exciting."

UFOs no mystery

CHELMSFORD police were contacted by a host of people who thought they had spotted a UFO above the town.

But the mystery was solved - it was the laser lights from Club Zeus.

Inspector Chris McIntosh said: "We got several calls on Friday night from people saying they had seen a UFO.

"When the atmospheric conditions are of a particular type, the lights can be seen for some considerable distance."

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Did you see this UFO?

I WISH to enquire through your pages to see if any of your readers can help me.

With recent government papers revealed under the 30 year rule and the Freedom of Information Act in the United States, the truth of the UFO phenomena is slowly being revealed.

The reason I am a firm believer is that I saw a flying disc object over Sutton Coldfield

many years ago.

My sighting was between 1.10pm and 1.50pm one day in early 1962.

I was in Mill Street and looking up the hill towards what was then the Midland Bank on the corner of Midland Drive.

The disc was like an upturned dinner plate of dull reddish/grey appearance. It

appeared to be spinning in a stationary

position above the bank, but possibly over Rectory Road, at approximately 500 to 700ft. It then shot off at an incredible speed to the right and upwards, perhaps over Coleshill Road.

It appeared to spin there for a few seconds and then shot back to its original position over Rectory Road but higher, say 1,000 to 1,500ft. It stayed there for a few more seconds

and then shot off again at a tremendous speed towards Walmley, climbing all the time until quickly out of sight.

If any of your readers saw this craft in January or February 1962 I should be delighted to hear from them.

John Shakespeare, Lazy Acre, Beeston, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2NQ.

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More UFO mystery

MORE UFOs have been spotted in the skies above Islington.

Following a Gazette report of strange flying things, readers have come forward to say they too have seen objects in the

the Gazette's report. While working in the City he saw what he described as a large, silver, strange flying thing, with a blue flare coming out of it.

Theresa Lyons, of Half Moon Skies. Steve Whelan, a security guard of Hawksley Road, Stoke Newington, said he spotted a UFO while at work but he had not sight anything until the sky

We help UFO group take off

A NEW group for UFO buffs has taken off like a rocket — after being featured in the Middleton and Blackley Guardian.

The Blackley-based Manchester UFO Research Network had a massive response following the article about the group's planned Skywatch held last month on Winter Hill.

Director of Operations, David Atkinson, of Westgate Avenue, Blackley, says that while they did not spot any UFOs on their Skywatch, they did come across satellites and meteors.

He adds that between 18 August and 25 August, the group received several reportings of UFO sightings on the same night in the area. "Initial investigations have shed no light on any of these reports so far, though we are still continuing further with our investigations," said David. He appeals for anyone who may have seen anything peculiar around that time to get in touch on 0161 795 4140.

Prof dismisses UFO theories

by Rebecca Stephens

UFO sightings in the county could be top secret military aircraft tests, according to a defence consultant.

Scores of Echo readers have recently reported unexplained phenomena and strange goings-on in the sky above their homes on an almost nightly basis.

Cheltenham-based defence expert Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason says there is nothing to the bright lights, noises, shadowy figures and apparent flying saucers that seem to have the power to erase hi-fi tapes.



Tony Mason

The former commander at RAF Innsworth and now a professor specialising in aerospace policy at Birmingham University, Mr Mason said he had never had any experience of little green men or any other alien contact, despite a lifetime in the air force.

"There are a lot of unexplained sightings by civilian and military air crews," he said. "People have seen various lights and objects at various speeds and altitudes.

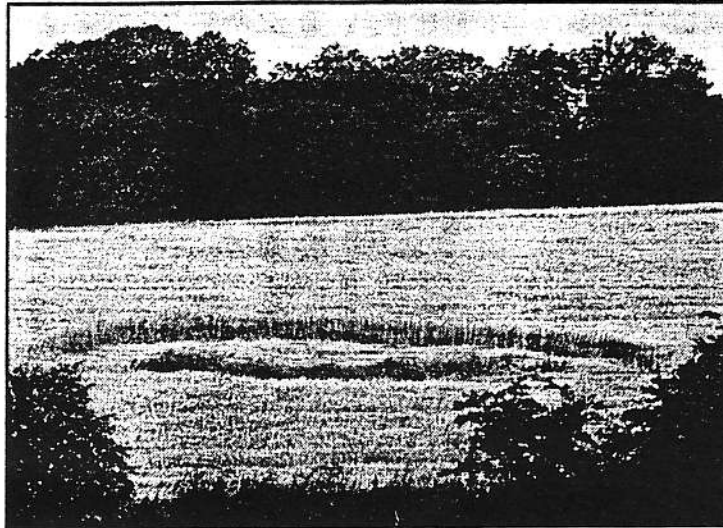
"The subject is frequently obscured because of very highly classified military projects involving high altitude hypersonic flights.

"As far as extra-terrestrial life is concerned we've got no proof of any sort."

His only vaguely close encounter was when he saw a US spy plane disappear off the radar when he was a junior officer in Norfolk in 1956.

He said his bosses reassured him with the words: "Don't worry about that kid, we know all about it. It's one of ours."

CROP CIRCLE SPARKS UFO ALERT



●The mysterious circle that appeared in a Rcecester field

PARANORMAL investigators flocked to a field following reports of a crop circle.

Members of the Potteries Paranormal Investigation group went to assess the 70ft-wide circle in a field between Uttoxeter and Rcecester.

The team - which probes mysteries including sightings of ghosts and UFOs - is set to interview a key witness in a bid to determine if the crop circle is genuine or a fake.

A woman - who is not being identified by the group - reported seeing the circle being formed by a "strange mist".

POPI spokesman Gary Cartlidge said: "We sent out scouts to investigate the crop circle, which was quite a small one.

By Rob Cotterill

"You have to be quite sceptical and it is 80 per cent sure that the circle is not genuine.

"But there is a witness who claims to have seen the circle being formed and we will be talking to her very soon.

"There are a number of theories about what causes crop circles. Very often they are found on lay lines and bright balls of blue light are seen close to the ground in fields.

"Other people say they are caused by alien aircraft activity.

"If this one is for real it will be the first one so near to Stoke-on-Trent."

ABERDEEN PRESS & JOURNAL

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Spooky events sought

UFO sightings... first love... things that go bump in the night... these are some of the experiences being sought for a new theatre company being planned for the Fort William area.

Collusion Theatre Co is the idea of former Eden Court Theatre drama artist-in-residence Keiran Gillespie and Sandie Wilson, an ex-dancer in residence with Ross and Cromarty District Council.

The pair want their first

work, Revelations, to be a "work in progress" rather than a scripted play, using people's impressions of extraordinary experiences, to inspire a script which will be developed as it is shown.

Arts agency HI Arts has given the fledgling company a research and development grant of £2,500.

Director Robert Livingstone said: "Basically what they want to do is try their first production out on an audience.

"They don't work with a pre-set script but develop it alongside the actors."

Mr Gillespie wants people living in the Highlands to get in touch to talk about their more unusual experiences.

"Most of all we want to know what people's reactions to these experiences were, such as how did they feel and did it change their lives," he said.

Mr Gillespie can be reached on 0141 638 0883 and Ms Wilson on 01381 620923.

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Police probe UFO reports

POLICE are investigating reports of a UFO sighting at Yellowham Hill in Puddletown.

A Dorchester man and woman travelling on the Puddletown dual carriageway spotted the unidentified flying object at 10 pm last night. The triangular craft, which had no engine noise and was equipped with red and green lights, hovered about 50 ft above their car, they said.

A police spokesman added: "The UFO was last seen going off towards Piddlehinton. We have tried to check with the airports, but have not been able to get any replies."

Mum and daughter spot UFO

Two Gloucestershire women say they were followed by bright objects in what seems to be the latest UFO sightings in the county.

The close encounter happened as Mrs Merelyn Johnson was walking her mother Mrs Eileen Fish home in Northway one evening.

Mrs Johnson, 43, said: "We were in The Park when I suddenly saw a big flash. I looked up and there were four oval lights over one of the houses moving around.

"They were very bright and had vein-type lines on them."

They were no more than a few hundred feet away, she said.

Mrs Fish, 68, said: "They were moving in a very strange way. It seemed like they were dancing.

"The amazing thing was that when we crossed the road to turn into Kestrel Way they followed us and stayed over a house. By that time I was really quite scared, I've not seen anything like it before."

She said they stayed there for about half-an-hour.

by Dave Higgens

The incident happened just after 10pm on Friday August 9, just before another sighting of four similar lights by a couple on the Bledington to Stow-on-the-Wold road.

Mr Robin Cole of the Cheltenham Circular Forum said there had been suggestions the lights were from a laser show at Long Marston, near Evesham.

He said: "I've spoken to Mrs Fish and I'm confident this is not the case.

"This is a really interesting encounter, especially in relation to the other sighting near Bourton."

UFO is airship

Y THE UFO spotted flying over Thurrock two weeks ago has been identified - it was an airship.

The brightly lit, circular object was seen by several people in the early hours of Thursday August 1 but a photograph proved the silent object was just a Philips advertising balloon.

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Earlier UFO sighting

READING your recent reports about UFOs has prompted me to write about the strange lights I saw one evening last December.

While waiting for a bus I glanced up at the sky over Christ Church in Paignton and saw a large circle of misty lights rotating in a clockwise direction — in the centre there was another smaller circle of lights — every so often the circles changed to an oval shape. The sky was partly cloudy and there was — I think — a half-moon.

I realise this is late in the day to make a report, but I did try to contact various local organisations and one in London, but nobody replied, so I felt there was nothing else I could do. I didn't think I'd contact the police!

Has anybody else seen something like this and is there anybody to whom I could give these details? It is still very clear in my memory.

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Forum's sky-full

EAGLE-EYED UFO watchers spotted 150 different flying objects over Cleeve Hill at the weekend — but none turned out to be little green men.

About 30 enthusiasts enjoyed one of the warmest nights of the year on the hill near Cheltenham, taking part in the national Sky Watch Weekend.

The 150 sightings they came up with turned out to be 36 satellites, 46 shooting stars, 66 aircraft, one helicopter, one high atmosphere electrical discharge and one meteor.

Leading investigator for the UFO-watching Cheltenham Circular Forum Robin Coles was philosophical.

"We've become very experienced at identifying different objects and everything we saw can be accounted for," he said.

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'Strange' encounter with a UFO

A DORCHESTER family told of the night they turned into space-sleuths to track down an unidentified flying object.

The couple — who did not wish to be named for fear of hoax calls — were driving on the A354 near Milborne St Andrew when one of their children saw strange lights in the sky.

The mother, 32, said: "We didn't pay much attention at first. But they kept talking about it, so I asked my partner to have a look outside."

At first, the 34-year-old health worker couldn't see anything

By SARAH MABER

unusual. When he looked out of the sun-roof, he saw a triangular-shaped craft hovering just 50ft above.

"There was no warning — no engine noise or anything", the Dorchester mum said. "It seemed like it was following us, and I thought that if I stopped the car, it would stop too. I didn't feel any fear. I wanted to get closer to it to see what it was — it was almost a compulsion."

The family followed the object on

to the Piddlehinton road but lost the craft over a hill.

The mum said: "I have got no explanation for this — I wish I did have. I have neither a belief nor a disbelief in UFOs or aliens. But the incident was all very strange."

The family contacted the police, assuming there would be a logical explanation. But inquiries proved fruitless.

Now they are appealing to anyone else who saw the UFO near the Puddletown to Dorchester duel carriageway at about 10pm on Tuesday to come forward.

Calling occupants of interplanetary craft

What would you say if you met an alien one day – on your way to Tescos for instance, or coming out of the public conveniences?

Naturally, given the unexpected nature of the meeting, teamed with the likelihood that you'd be slightly preoccupied with your shopping list or that nagging anxiety that your skirt might be tucked up at the back, you'd be a bit flustered. You'd be forgiven for not making the first move to greet the stranger and welcome him to the planet.

But isn't it a bit rum that the editor of the country's biggest UFO magazine, a man who has devoted 30 of his 42 years to the study of the subject and has seen UFOs with his own eyes, hasn't composed some famous first words in readiness for such an encounter?

"What's to say?" shrugs Graham Birdsall, eventually. "If they've been monitoring us for years they probably already have a fair idea of what we want to ask them."

Dismissive

Mmmm. But is that any excuse for rudeness? It's hard to imagine Graham treating our little extra-terrestrial friends in this dismissive way because to humans he is courtesy personified. I've joined Graham and his *UFO Magazine* colleague Brynn Foy in a layby up on Carleton Moor near Skipton, to scan the night skies in the hope of spotting one of the orange balls of light that have been reported there from time to time – like a street light in the sky, Brynn says (he's seen one), only they try to follow you home.

Brynn, in charge of the night vision binoculars, is dutifully getting on with the business, although it's a damp night and the cloud is so low that it practically rests on Graham's shoulders – he's a big man.

Briefly I wonder if it's a good idea to frequent lonely moors late at night with bearded persons. Particularly ones who wait only for the car headlights to be switched off to start telling you about animal mutilations and bizarre internal examinations carried out on human abductees. Still, how could a man so urbane turn out to be a serial killer? Dismiss thoughts of Hannibal Lecter.

Graham is patiently indexing UFO sightings over the years, patiently explaining the technical terminology, patiently spelling out proper names and tricky words like secretariat, and I'm patiently listening. It's a long, long, though.

Graham's ever so polite – even when you suggest prosaic explanations for some of the

– where were you last night? I waited for hours

phenomena that have been reported. He dismisses them as smoothly as a politician. He's also got the politician's trick of not actually answering a question with a direct reply – and he's loathe to interrupt his stream of UFO stories for long.

Ask Graham directly if he actually believes in little green men and he'll tell you what proportion of the general public believe (most). Press him some more and you think he's about to stick his neck out. "I'm absolutely convinced," he begins – but it's just a feint – "that some of the extraordinary objects that have been reported and recorded over the years just don't add up when you try to explain them away with conventional aviation technology."

UFO WATCHING IS A BIT LIKE TRAIN SPOTTING, ONLY LESS FUN

Yet Graham spends his professional life trying to do exactly that. *UFO Magazine*, published in Otley, has a circulation of 76,000 and is read all over the English-speaking world.

"Readers are constantly writing letters wondering why we constantly harp on about other explanations," he says. "We try to report the phenomena accurately and present a balance.

The vast majority of UFO sightings can be explained as aircraft, meteorites, shooting stars, misidentifications of Venus, or even of the moon."

Other things are harder to explain, though: Two thousand sightings of flying triangles whizzing noiselessly over Belgium in 1990 alone. NATO, SHAPE and the MoD all swore blind these were not due to trials of their new super-secret Stealth bomber, cross their hearts and hope to die.

And what about the glowing ball of light that nipped over the Birdsalls' back garden one summer night in '95 without burning up as it should have done if it was a common (or garden) meteor?

"Then it did a complete right angle turn over our heads, and went off in an easterly

direction." Graham reports. Even more remarkable.

"Yes, it went off to the north," continues Graham.

"Wait a minute – didn't you just say it went east?"

"Yes, it was coming in a westerly direction, then it went in a northerly direction," Graham testifies.

Meanwhile, up on Carleton Moor, it looks as though our little alien chums have stood us up. Even Brynn has given up casting about with the binoculars. UFO watching is not a hobby that would suit every temperament. It's a bit like trainspotting, only less fun (at least if you wait for long enough by a weed-free railway line you are reasonably certain of seeing a train).

For those who want quick rewards without the inconvenience, Graham has handily organised an international UFO conference in Leeds this weekend – kicking off with a Friday night session called *Moving Images*, so that doubters and believers alike can view for themselves a "hit-mix of astonishing worldwide UFO footage from past to present." Plus questions and answers.

Question

At least one question has been answered recently. We now know that there is life on Mars. But it's a God-awful small affair, is it not?

Surprisingly, Graham agrees.

"Yes, I believe there's life out there," he finally admits. "So what?"

So what?

"The thing that struck me about that week was that there was more concern for a worn-looking fossil on a Martian meteorite than 5,000 frozen embryos which were dispatched here on Earth," says Graham. "We don't respect life as we should."

And it's as well to bear in mind that our little alien neighbours, if we have any, may have the same tendency. At the end of the day, which is more scary – the thought that we are alone in the Universe, or the possibility that we are not? Time to call it a night.

● For details of the 15th Leeds International UFO Conference phone 01943 850860

UFO buffs baffled by noises

UFO investigators have been left baffled by strange early-morning noises at Newent.

The county-based Circular Forum, which studies unexplained sightings, has turned to the Citizen for help.

The group received a total of seven calls from readers who spotted the August 19 article on an increase in UFO activity.

It told how saucer spotters were on a high after a record six separate sightings of UFOs in Gloucestershire during the previous week.

One was a mysterious orange oval shape about 700 metres above Newent.

Interest has rocketed because of the alien blockbuster film Independence Day and cult TV series The X-Files.

Of the latest cases, the most fascinating appeared to indicate something very odd around Knights Way, Newent, at about 3.30am on August 19.

Robin Cole, forum head of investigations, said: "It seems a number of residents around there were woken in the early hours by strange un-rhythmic sounds."

A CLOSE encounter with an unidentified flying object has left a **Harborough woman unable to sleep at night.**

The bizarre incident occurred last weekend at Gracelands and it was witnessed by Violet Windridge and her sister Josephine Lee.

Mrs Windridge said: "It was about 7.30pm and I was sitting in my deck chair when a swarm of birds just flew off like something had frightened them."

"Then I saw an object like a great humming top up in the sky."

"It was big, there was no engine

by Mandy Ryan

sound and it was twisting about in the sky. It was like a balloon only bigger. It was silver on the outside and black in the middle. It looked like it was made of metal."

Mrs Windridge added she expected some publicity about the object from other 'witnesses'. She said: "We can't be the only ones who saw it."

And Mrs Windridge has drawn some conclusions on what the strange object was.

She said: "I don't honestly know

by Frank Keogh

"These seemed to fade quickly and then come back as though rushing into the distance and then returning."

"At least one witness noticed that dogs and cats had been disturbed, and that security lighting came on at three separate houses at exactly the same time."

Mr Cole said he was confident explanations could be found for most of the calls.

He added: "I don't believe that anyone who has contacted me so far has been a fake. It seems that they are genuinely concerned."

"With this Newent case and increasing UFO sightings, I have to say I am perplexed."

Police say they were not called to deal with any incidents in the area at that time.

Can you solve the Newent mystery? Call our newsdesk on (01452) 424442.

Meanwhile, anyone who sees a UFO can phone the Cheltenham group's 24-hour hotline on 0973 778906.

what it was but I can't think of anything else it could have been apart from a UFO."

And she added the sighting had given her quite a few sleepless nights since.

The object was seen on Sunday, August 18, heading towards Leicester.

Patrick Leonard, of the Northants UFO Research Club, who lives in Scaldwell, was fascinated to hear of the sighting.

"It was definitely a UFO - but whether it was an alien spacecraft will take some investigation," he said. The Mail.

UFO group tells of strangers in the night

UFO watchers have launched their own X-Files style investigation following reports of strange lights in the night skies over Northampton. Separate sightings of an unidentified flying object were reported over the eastern district of Northampton during the weekend.

Now the Northamptonshire UFO Research Club has appealed for anyone else who thinks they may have seen the object to get in touch.

Club member Patrick Leonard said the sightings matched the classic description of UFOs.

Mr Leonard said: "We will be investigating this further."

"We are not talking about a conventional piece of aircraft technology as we know and understand it."

A couple from Billing said they had seen a brightly flashing light in the sky in the early hours of Saturday.

Mary Jackson from Eastfield, Northampton, revealed how she had a similar experience at about the same time.

Mrs Jackson, 54, said: "It was the noise that woke me up, not the light. It was a humming, like a spinning top."

She said the light hovered very low for about five minutes before it disappeared.

"It was standing still and then it swerved off and then it just vanished."

Anyone who would like to contact the club should phone Northampton 880756.

NORTHAMPTON CHRONICLE & ECHO

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Couple claims to have seen flashing UFO

A BRIGHTLY flashing UFO hovered over the night skies of Northampton on Saturday, according to a Billing couple. The couple are appealing to anyone else who saw

direction of Billing Aquadrome. James, aged 62, said: "I woke up at about 4.10am to go to the toilet and looked out of the curtains.

thought that's a nice bright star in the sky". I kept watching it and it came really bright. "It started to go from side to side then all of a

disappeared, you could just pick it out in the sky and it went right down to a little glimmer. "Then it came back and it was really bright as if

light on. "My wife woke up and asked what I was looking at and I said it looks like a UFO to me. Then we both watched it until 5.10am when the clouds came in"

More report sighting UFO

CALLS have been flooding into Echo offices confirming one family's close encounter with a UFO near Puddletown.

From Portland to Cheselbourne, Littlemoor to Piddlehinton, people all over west Dorset are seeking an explanation.

And UFO researchers say the report of the triangular-shaped craft with flashing lights is the biggest-ever witnessed sighting in the county.

A local woman said she rang Portland police station when she spotted a strange craft just before 10pm on Tuesday.

And a man from Littlemoor called to say he had witnessed the UFO, describing it as "a collection of lights in a triangular shape."

Researcher David Kingston said: "This must be a

genuine sighting. All the people that have called in have tried to apply logic to what they saw, but the craft just hovered — that's what unnerved them.

"All the reports tally with what the Dorchester family first reported on Tuesday."

The family first spotted the UFO on the Puddletown to Dorchester dual carriageway. They tried to follow the craft, but lost it over a hill.

The sighting was confirmed by a Bockenhamp-ton farmer who spotted the UFO near Tolpuddle.

He said: "I thought it was Hercules transporter at first, but then I realised it wasn't moving, and it was hovering about 50 to 60ft above us. It was dome-shaped, and there was a fluorescent white glow around it."

Farr UFO leaves village baffled

FASCINATED locals watched an unidentified flying object in the skies above Strathnairn for about an hour on Saturday evening.

Local man Jim Smith raised the alert in Farr and a group of five villagers watched the object with him after he first spotted it about 9.20pm.

Jim, the Lochalsh Road cobbler in Inverness, had seen what he thought was an aircraft as he travelled in to town to pick up his nurse wife Sylvia. But returning to Farr he saw it again and realised it wasn't moving.

The wedge-shaped object had one dim orange light to the rear, and was quite low at first. Back in the village a crowd gathered and watched as the light faded until it disappeared at about 10.20pm.

"It was wedge-shaped, and before the light faded you

could see what looked like poles at the side. It was like a sledge, and it moved about slowly and made no sound. It seemed to like moving in and out of the clouds.

"One of my neighbours is an air hostess and flies thousands of miles a year and reckons she saw something very similar about six weeks before and didn't tell anybody."

The object gradually rose in the sky over the hour it was watched until it disappeared, said Jim, who had served in the now disbanded Observer Corps.

"Why does nobody know what these things are?" he asked. "Somebody must know something somewhere. The Tornados weren't flying up the Strath on Sunday. It makes you wonder if there's some connection."

'News' solves mystery of Susan's Millport UFO



● Susan Keay was mystified.

nothing in the area at that time." Largs Police can shed no light on the matter. They received no calls detailing the strange occurrence. Helicopter Pilot Gordon McMillan said: "We had been sent out from HMS Gannet to rescue a diver at Arran. We picked him up and had landed by 0330 hours. Apart from some civilian craft we didn't see anything unusual."

After some frantic searching, the 'News' finally uncovered the truth.

An enormous P & O liner, named Royal Princess, sailed from Iceland and passed by the Isle of Cumbrae around four o'clock on Tuesday morning. The ship docked at Greenock for ten hours, before heading to Waterford. So, it seems to have been a case of an Unidentified Floating Object for Mrs Susan Keay who was relieved. She said: "Perhaps, I'm not mad after all."

Do you have any tales about strange phenomena or any other unusual x-filesque stories contact Scott Rhodie, 'News Office', telephone 01475 689009.

THE 'News' has solved a mystery UFO sighting by a Largs woman on Tuesday morning.

Mrs Susan Keay had a close encounter of the third kind when she saw the Isle of Cumbrae "silhouetted by bright white lights."

Susan, of Kyles View, told the 'News' her story: "I got up around 3.55am to get a drink of water. As I headed back to bed I heard a strange humming noise. It was really loud."

"I pulled back the curtains, opened the window and looked up to see if the cause of the noise was coming from above the house. The humming sounded as if I was standing beside an electrical sub-station."

"All I could see was the clear sky. When I looked around, I could see the Hunterston Power Plant and then something caught my eye."

"The whole of Cumbrae was lit up, bright white lights silhouetted the island. The humming was still occurring as I stared at the strange sight."

"The island was lit up and after ten minutes the lights began to dim and move to the other side of the island. At the same time the humming gradually decreased. I looked at my clock and it was ten past four."

"After that the light and noise disappeared and it was pitch black. All I could see was a small part of Millport lit up by the lights from the power station."

"I'm not sure what I saw, but I know that it wasn't the sun coming up, because I was facing south west."

Oceanic Control, Prestwick said: "We had

Couple report UFO sighting

A further sighting of a group of UFOs has been reported.

A couple from Kingsholm, Gloucester, say they saw a large light split into four and move towards them between 10.30pm on Friday August 9 and 1am on Saturday August 10.

The incident follows reports of two similar sightings on the same night in Northway, Tewkesbury, and near Bourton-on-the-Water.

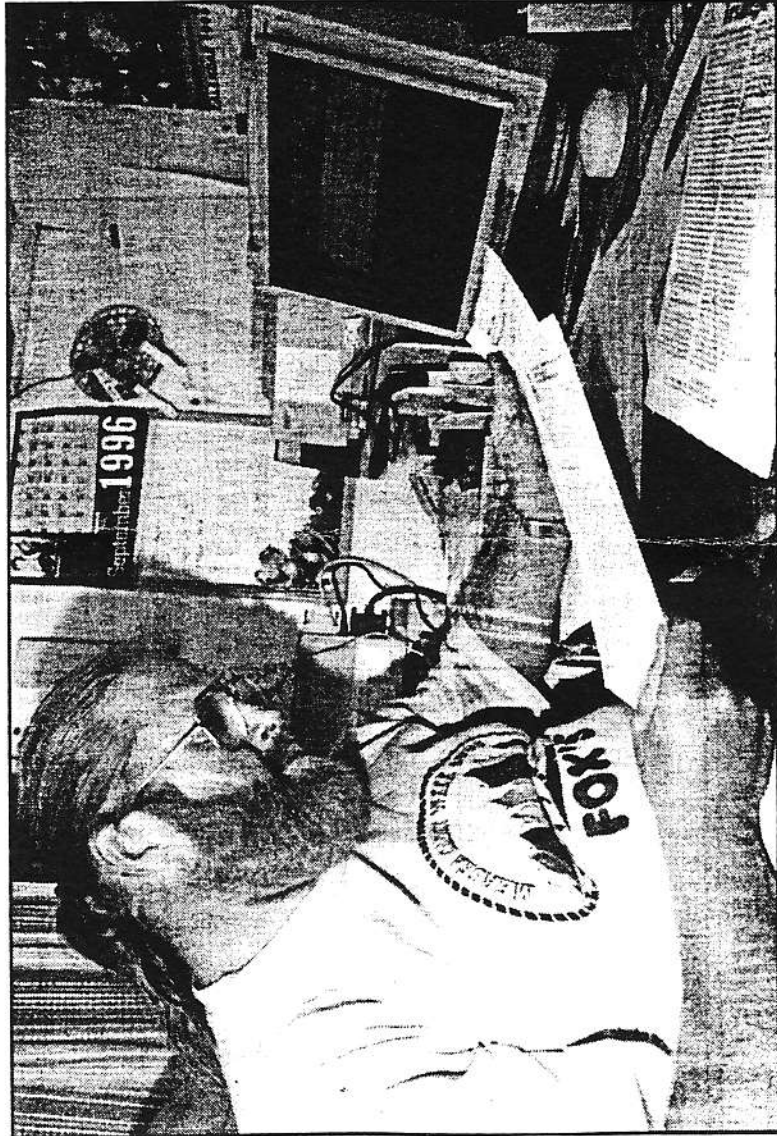
Do you enjoy an unusual hobby? Why not tell your Halstead Gazette about your interesting pastime. The Gazette this week launches a new series of feature articles on unusual pastimes. If you would like to talk about your interests give us a ring on 01376 343344

TOP TIPS FOR UFO SPOTTING

- Get as many witnesses as possible – the more the better. Photographs will also help.
- If you manage to grab your instamatic try to get as much background and foreground in as possible, it doesn't have to be a David Bailey effort.
- Don't rely on memory. Take as many notes as possible noting the appearance, colour, motion and size of the saucer. Take names and addresses of other witnesses.
- If the space craft touched down try to protect area but try not to disturb it and then contact an investigator at Global UFO Investigation Systems on 01903 520025 or 01787 223306.

THEY were so small you could not see them with the naked eye and yet they had boffins across the world jumping for joy.

They were millions of years old and lived on a piece of meteorite which had crashed into the Antarctic.



David Reynolds, of Atlas Road, Earls Colne, would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining the Essex branch of the Global UFO Investigation System.

Dedicated to search of space

by **ROBERT PRATT**

Yet they caused excited NASA scientists to declare that the small tubular bacteria proved that there was once life on Mars.

The cause of this revelation were tiny bacteria which used to inhabit the desert wastes of the red planet.

And the discovery of the century could give new hope to a committed band of men and women dedicated to proving the existence of life in space.

Three months ago David Reynolds, of Atlas Road, Earls Colne started up the first Essex branch of a world wide UFO investigation unit with pal Paul Hood.

After just 12 weeks the Global UFO Investigation Systems has recruited more than 30 members keen on discovering the facts behind dozens of mysterious sightings.

"We are just as the name suggests, world wide. We have branches in most countries and even have a site on the Internet.

"We take reports of all possible sightings and then the group checks out the information with groups like the military and the aviation authorities," he said.

The father of two admits that he has been fascinated by the thought of alien life for as long as he can remember.

"Why should we be the only ones? With so many planets and stars why should we be the only

intelligent life forms going?" The dedicated space searcher claims that there is evidence going back thousands of years which points to the existence of a host of ETs.

"There are cave drawings which show the animals of the time next to flying saucers. Scientists have carbon dated the samples and they are genuine," he said.

Area 51, the alleged American air base used as an alien test site, also confirms David's belief that UFOs do exist.

"American Ufologists have seen saucers taking off and landing at the base. The US military claim it is just a testing and firing range.

"Yet it is surrounded by hi-tech sensors and armed guards authorised to use deadly force," he added.

Interest in alien visitors has never been greater. The popularity of cult TV shows like the X-Files and recent documentaries like the Roswell Incident have fuelled interest in the subject.

The latest revelations about life on Mars have already prompted calls for space pioneers to colonise the red planet.

Interest in space has not been this great since Armstrong's small step for man and it seems like it will be several years before Ufology's supernova burns out.

● Anyone interested in finding out more about the group's activities should contact David on 01787 223306.

Mystery of 'UFO' as plane hunt fails

By Don Frame

GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES!

THE evening was fine with high cloud, the sun was throwing off that familiar orange glow and I was waiting at Blackbushe Airport for JJ and friends, ready to fly into the setting sun. No, that happens in the movies.

We were about to fly to Wiltshire, but I'd better explain the circumstances first and then it will all make sense.

Friday evening at about 10pm I had a call from one of the crop circle group members in Devon. He told me about a new formation that had appeared in Wiltshire, near to Avebury. Apparently, it was big and good - two reasons to have a look.

It was Saturday morning, still quite early. I considered driving down and suggested to my wife that it would make a nice day out. This was done as we drove to Tesco's; she didn't seem too impressed, so that was the end of that idea.

Yet, at lunchtime, I got a call from JJ asking if I wanted to fly down that evening. The farmer involved wasn't happy this formation had appeared and was going to combine it as quickly as possible. It was going to be a race

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against time.

But there was one problem - the plane was in France and we weren't sure what time it would be back - so we went into standby mode.

About four o'clock JJ called again and said it was on at Blackbushe at 5.30. I was there in good time and gradually the others arrived and boarded the plane.

Countryside Scenes

By STEVE JONES

JJ was at the controls, Ken took the other front seat, Tel had the right-hand rear seat (my position usually) and I got the left-hand rear seat.

We flew at 2,200 ft and the first thing to strike me was the amount of harvesting already underway. Many fields were bare and some had even been ploughed or harrowed.

There was a fair bit of hazy mist and the clouds cast dark shadows over the ground. Tel had the video camera running all the way there and back and he managed to get shots of a few dubious crop circles.

At Avebury, we headed over Windmill Hill and were confronted by

what must be one of the finest crop formations I have ever seen. Of course, it looked so much more spectacular from the air.

It was massive, approximately 300 ft sq with a total of 194 individual circles. If you saw the Centipede at Stonehenge (published in many papers and broadcast on TV) and imagined the same but with three arcs of circles, then you wouldn't be far off the mark.

I waited as JJ banked to the right (or starboard) for Ken and Tel to get their shots, then we banked left (port) and I had the view all to myself. I managed to fire off eight or nine shots as we circled. Then, all too soon, we were heading back to Blackbushe, calling in at Basingstoke to look at three rather shabby circles by the railway.

My photos came back yesterday and they are great. Each shot caught the light in a different way and so each photo is slightly different. We managed to beat the farmer and recorded some truly great photos.

But there is a footnote that should be told.

Good news - the National Farmers' Union is putting up a £1,000 reward for information leading to successful prosecutions being brought against these vandals. Let's hope they catch a few...

A HUNT for a mystery aircraft in distress was called off and the incident logged as a UFO today.

Emergency services were alerted when a plane was reported trailing smoke in the sky above Wigan last night.

The Greater Manchester Police helicopter was scrambled, but no trace of the mystery craft could be found.

After Hindley Green fire station logged it as a UFO, the Civil Aviation Authority said today the most likely explanation was visual distortion caused by an extremely red sunset.

A spokesman said: "No aircraft was reported missing or in trouble. Neither Manchester Airport nor Barton Aerodrome had contact with any aircraft in distress."

"It is a puzzling incident, but there was a very red sunset and it is quite possible there was light distortion and somebody mistook what they had seen."

Fire crews were scrambled from Hindley, Wigan and Atherton after the reported sighting of the aircraft, described as a single-engined plane.

BOFFIN'S UFO DREAM THEORY SHOT DOWN

AN AYRSHIRE woman who says she saw a UFO landing in a field by her home has blasted claims by a leading researcher that sightings are induced by 'sleep paralysis.'

The woman, originally from South Ayrshire but now living in Leicestershire, says she was woken one night by bright lights which lit up her bedroom like the "Midday sun."

At first she was unable to see clearly out the window of the room because the lights were so powerful.

"After what seemed like five minutes or so, the lights seemed to die in intensity and began flashing.

"It was then that I looked out of the window again and saw a strange cone shaped object moving straight upwards

Leader Report by Peter Jeal

The Leader reaches the parts that other papers cannot reach!

and into the sky before disappearing altogether."

The sighting occurred five years ago near the Leicestershire village of Burbage - an area well known for UFO sightings throughout the years.

The woman said this week that

claims by Dr Susan Blackmore - a researcher at the University of the West of England - that people who have seen UFO's were simply dreaming, are nonsense.

"I know what I saw and many other people have seen similar things which nobody appears able to explain."

Dr Blackmore says that 'borderline sleep' or 'sleep paralysis' is a near sleep state in which the dreamer can hear strange noises, see flashing lights or even experience 'out-of-body' or alien abduction experiences.

Sleep paralysis is a common problem shared by three out of ten people, she will tell the British Association Annual Festival of Science in Birmingham next month.

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Abducted housewife alive on web site

ALUF'S SO GULL-IBL
INDIAN restaurar worker Aluf Miah though he had photograph UFOs over Gloucester until his family told hi they were seagulls.

A LIENS are back in fashion and, scientists tell us, that there is life on Mars after all - so it is no surprise to find a growing number of sites on the internet devoted to extraterrestrials.

If it is facts you want about the meteorite ALH 84001 and not speculation and rumour, check out the full 12-year detective story at the <http://www.today@nasa.gov> homepage which is filled with the thoughts of respected scientists and the Nasa commentators who pieced together this extraordinary detective story. At the Hollywood end of the alien spectrum *Independence Day* has a spectacular web site at <http://www.id4.com/> which includes film clips as well as Shockwave animation from the computer-generated special-effects sequences.

For a long time the net has been a trading post for weird news about aliens. Despite the silly name, the new Wally World UFO Home Page at http://web.hyperweb.com/ufo_ns.html is one of the best pages on the web on the subject: it is a comprehensive guide to UFOs, abductions, serious scientific theories on extraterrestrial life and a section exploding the myths surrounding alien abductions and the saucer sightings.

For breaking news from around the world the World Wide Times at <http://www.aloha.com/~jet/wwt/> is a weekly update on

CONNECTIONS



Net image: hubcaps on Mars?

UFO lore and alien visitations that makes amusing reading, especially for sceptics.

The mother of all government UFO studies is Project Bluebook, undertaken by the US air force from the late 1940s on. It was a secret file that was opened in response to an alarming increase in sightings of UFOs, some by air force pilots. It has now been thrown open to the public at <http://www.cis.ksu.edu/~psiber/substand/bluebook.html>. Thankfully, the site is free of speculation and exaggeration and simply lists entries, giving dates, times and witnesses of every credible UFO encounter since 1947.

But if you want sensationalism and speculation, abduction stories from bored house-

wives, bogus science fantasies, strange tales of alien insemination and trips in flying saucers, The Ultimate UFO page at <http://www.serve.com/tufop/> should be your first stop. It has links to a huge number of weird and wacky UFO and alien pages worldwide, some serious, others just entertainment.

The web's finest alien page originates in Norway. Bilder av forskjennige UFO romskip at <http://www.oslonett.no/home/toreal/ufo.html> is written in Norwegian but also has Esperanto and partial English mirrors. Over 100 case studies are featured with clear, precise photographic excerpts, even if some of them do look suspiciously like car hubcaps frisbeed through the air.

Area 51 FAQ at <http://infi.net/~psypsy/Area51/ref/faq.txt> is one of the most intriguing sites on the net. Area 51 is supposed to house the wreckage from the legendary UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. The crash is supposed to have left live aliens, who later died, and a craft, discovered by locals, made of metals that none of them had ever seen before.

The Roswell site at <http://www.gold.net/cb1/roswell/> includes stills from the supposed alien autopsy film and accounts from eyewitnesses of what they saw when they reached the crash site.

Cliff Jones

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IT'S all happening in Wigan at the moment.

After months of silence there have been two remarkable cases to report.

Case One:

Bill Eatock, official UFO investigator for Quest International, reports:

"At 1.30pm on Monday, August 12, a number of people in the Wigan area heard a very noisy helicopter overhead.



LOW FLYER: A Chinook

On rushing outside to look at the copter, they found that it was a Chinook twin rotor machine flying extremely low. It was following a small matt black triangular object about a quarter of a mile in front of it.

The Chinook was moving very slowly and was followed about two minutes later by a Jaguar fighter aircraft that passed overhead as low as the copter - with its undercarriage down (a strange thing to do over such a densely populated area)!

The Jaguar followed the exact same course as the triangle and Chinook.

One witness stated that the only time they realised that something was overhead was when they heard the Chinook, the triangular object must have passed silently overhead a few seconds earlier.

Fortunately I was in the area at the time and also witnessed the sighting, from my position (Wigan town centre) it would appear that the triangle and copter were heading in the direction of Bury/Rochdale. I didn't see the Jaguar but most definitely heard it."

Case Two:

On Friday, August 16 a mystery object was sighted over the Hindley area of Wigan.

Three fire engines and a police helicopter were scrambled after reports of a plane in trouble over Hindley Green.



Witnesses said they saw the object break into a fireball before bits began to fall off it.

Neither the police or fire engines could find any wreckage. They searched for more than an hour.

Leading fire fighter Peter Johnson of Hindley Fire Station said: "There was an oily smell in the area but we could not find anything. We went as far as the edge of Bolton and the police helicopter came out to search over the fields but nothing was found.

"After about an hour we called off the search and logged it as a UFO."

DID you witness this incident or the one in Wigan a fortnight ago? If you did contact Jon Peake, tel 01942 228000 or write into UFO Update, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0LX.